COASTAL BATTLEFIELD RECONNAISSANCE AND ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION

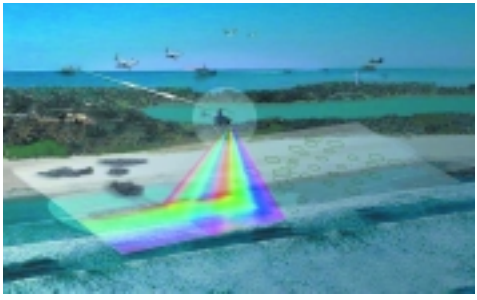
Coastal Battlefield Reconnaissance and Analysis (COBRA) will allow naval expeditionary forces to conduct airborne, standoff reconnaissance and automatic detection of minefields in the surf zone and inland. COBRA will consist of three primary components — the COBRA Airborne Payload, the COBRA Processing Station, and the Tactical Control Software (TCS). The COBRA Airborne Payload will consist of a multi-spectral sensor system that will be placed on an unmanned aerial vehicle to conduct reconnaissance, detect minefields, obstacles, and camouflaged defenses. The Tactical Control Software that is loaded onto the UAV Ground Control Station will control the COBRA Airborne Payload. Analysis of the imagery collected by the COBRA Airborne Payload will be conducted at the COBRA Processing Station. The COBRA Processing Station includes a Tactical Exploitation Group Remote Work Station (TEG RWS) with enhanced algorithm processing.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

There is no alternative program capable of providing this capability. The Marine Corps may not be able to successfully conduct Ship-to-Objective Maneuver in the face of a mine threat without personnel and equipment casualties. The concept of Operational Maneuver From the Sea allows our forces to circumvent mined areas if they can be rapidly and remotely detected. Without a minefield detection and coastal reconnaissance capability, this cannot occur.

PROGRAM STATUS

In accordance with an Acquisition Decision Memorandum signed 5 May 2003, an existing contract with Northrop Grumman was modified for the development, integration, and test of the Technology Development System, called Spiral IA. With the successful demonstration of the Spiral IA prototype, the Technology Demonstration Stage will be completed. Milestone B is planned for the third quarter of FY 2004.



PROCUREMENT PROFILE

Procurement is planned to begin during FY 2006

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems, Melbourne, FL